

HISTORY OF BOONE COUNTY KENTUCKY

BY
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FLORENCE, KENTUCKY



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A. M. Yealey and log cut in rear of Wildwood Motel, U. S. 42, Florence, Ky. - March 16, 1953

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR

A. M. Yealey, the seventh child of Michael Yealey and Catherine Strebel, was born in Union County, Ohio, on January 29, 1873.

Michael Yealey, the father, was born in Germany on January 10, 1827, and Catherine Strebel, the mother, was born in Germany on July 5, 1833. Catherine came to Ohio in 1847 and Michael in 1854. The were united in marriage at Bryan, Ohio, on October 24, 1854.

To this union were born eight children, four boys and four girls. Two boys and two girls are still living, in 1959.

A. M. Yealey received his grade and high school education in Union County, Ohio. His college work was at the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio; Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio; and the University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

After teaching for five years in Union County, Ohio, he established a good business in selling coal, lime, salt, flour, sand, and other commodities in Columbus, Ohio. The flood of 1898 ruined this business by wrecking the buildings.

On March 1, 1898, A. M. Yealey married Lucy Ann Rouse, the daughter of George Rouse, of Florence, Boone County, Kentucky. They lived with the bride's father and Mr. Yealey became a farmer and teacher.

After teaching in four rural schools in the county he became the principal of the school in Florence where he remained for twenty-nine years. In 1911 he established the first high school in Florence to be recognized by colleges.

In 1931, he and his son-in-law, Russell House, formed a partnership and built the Wild Wood Motel on U. S. Highway 42 on the southern limits of Florence.

After six years Mr. Yealey planned to open a hotel. His wife's health prevented this and selling his home he purchased the house at 268 Main Street. His wife passed away in 1942.

His longing for his chosen profession caused him to return to the school house. He taught in Florence from 1943 to 1945, and at New Haven for three years.

His children are Mrs. Willa House, Russell Yealey, and Georgia Y. Tanner (deceased). Grandchildren are Dr. G. R. Tanner and Mary Russala Yealey Demoisey. Robert Tanner, Sherry Tanner, and Rene Demoisey are great-grandchildren.

Realizing the need for the preservation of Boone County history,

Mr. Yealey began to write articles for the Boone County Recorder, the Walton Advertiser, and the Stringtown Christian under the title of "Early History of Boone County."

The response from people who had once lived in Boone County was beyond expectations and to further the knowledge of the history of the area the Boone County Historical Society was formed. Mr. Yealey is the Historian of the society.

He took pride in Florence and served as its Mayor on four different occasions. During his first term of office, in 1908, the city's first sidewalks were laid on Main, Shelby, and Girard streets.

His church membership is at the Unionville, Ohio, Methodist Church which he helped to build during 1893.

Now, in 1959, Mr. Yealey is eighty-six years of age. He has taught school forty-one years. He is a very spry man and still writes on Boone County history for the local newspapers.

EARLY VISITORS

George the II, was king of England from 1727 to 1760. In the year of 1750 he issued a patent of 500,000 acres of land to the Ohio Company, which was composed of four prominent Englishmen and several Virginians. This land was in the Ohio Valley and the Ohio Company gave Christopher Gist and Mr. Lawrence Washington (a brother of George Washington) instructions to explore along the Ohio River and find a place that would consist of the above number of acres of land. Gist and Washington crossed the Alleghany Mountains to the Ohio River and descended to where Portsmouth is now situated.

While here he met two French traders who had been at Big Bone Lick, and his diary states that they gave him a jaw-tooth over 4 pounds in weight, several rib bones 11 feet long and a skull bone 6 feet across, and several teeth called horns over 5 feet long. They also gave Gist a very good location of the place where they found the bones, stating that it was 20 miles below the mouth of the Big Miami River and up a small stream that flowed into the Ohio from the south, and that it had been six years since they had been there, which would have made their visit to Big Bone Lick in 1744.

We have no account of Gist ever having visited this place. Our next visitor was Mrs. Mary Ingles who, in 1756, with her two boys, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Draper, and others, were taken prisoners by the Shawnee Indians from her home in what is now West Virginia. They

were taken down the Ohio in flatboats and on reaching the Shawnee town (Portsmouth) she was separated from her boys and Mrs. Draper.

While the Indians were making salt at Big Bone Mrs. Inglis and the Dutch woman decided to escape, and under pretense of gathering grapes, they left. After 40 days of untold hardships they reached home. One of the boys died while captive among the Indians. The other was found by the father after 13 years of separation. Mrs. Ingles died in 1813, aged 84 years.

THE FIRST BATTLE.

Gen. Rogers Clark in 1781 ordered Col. Lochrey of Pennsylvania to raise a company of men and assist him in an expedition against Detroit. Col. Lochrey raised a force of 120 men and was to meet Gen. Clark at Fort Henry (Wheeling W. Va.). When Lochrey reached this fort he found that Gen. Clark had already passed down the Ohio. Lochrey dispatched Captain Shannon with four men to overtake Clark and obtain supplies. These four men were captured (also letters from Lochrey to Clark) near Belleview. They were so placed on the Indiana shore at the head of Lochrey's island that any one passing up or down the river could see them. The Indians, about 400 in number, 200 on the Boone county side of the river and the rest on the Indiana side awaited the arrival of Col. Lochrey and his troops. Before reaching the Island the troops made a landing on the Boone county side opposite Lochrey's creek to prepare a meal and graze the horses. While here they were attacked by the Indians on the Kentucky side, the troops defending themselves until their ammunition was exhausted when they took their boats, then the Indians on the Indiana side rushed out on a sand bar and deadly conflict ensued, rifle balls were coming from both sides of the river, further resistance was useless, and they were compelled to surrender. Col. Lochrey was massacred and 42 of his men fell in battle, the rest were taken prisoners, most of whom were ransomed by British officers, in 1783 and exchanged for British soldiers captured during the Revolutionary war.

If the reader should chance to be at Aurora, Indiana, it will be of interest to visit the cemetery about three-fourths of a mile west of the town, there you will see the monument which was erected August, 1924, in memory of Col. Lochrey and his company that were slain in the above battle.

INDIAN WAR

During the year 1778 and '79 the Indians from Indiana and Ohio were making frequent incursions into Kentucky, and molesting the settlements that were in existence. Col. Bowman, County Lieutenant of Kentucky County, Virginia, was ordered to prevent this depredation and consequently he ordered four companies to meet where Covington is now located. In April, 1779, Captain Logan, from Logan's Station, arrived with his company of 99 men; Captain Harlin from Harrodsburg with 60 men; Captain John Holder from Boonesborough with 56 men; Captain Wm. Harrod's company of about 60 men. Several of these companies met at Lexington and marched down the west side of the Licking River until they came to the head waters of Bank Lick Creek, where they camped for the night. Then they followed Bank Lick to the mouth of the Licking.

Maj. Geo. Michael Bedinger was appointed Adjutant. The men then crossed the Ohio River and were formed into three divisions and placed in marching order by the Adjutant before Col. Bowman. The trail of the Indian was soon found and after two days marching they halted at the Indian town of Old Chillicothe (near the city of Xenia, Ohio). The object of Col. Bowman was to surround the village and make a simultaneous attack, but before the companies were able to do this they were detected by an Indian sentinel and the alarm given. The Indian warriors collected in a few of the stronger cabins and kept up a withering fire through the cracks in the huts. The white men set fire to the unprotected cabins and burned about 35, also much spoil was taken such as blankets and kettles from the burning huts.

One hundred and thirty-five horses were collected near their village. After an engagement lasting about two hours, the whites had lost seven men and the Red Men had lost their two leaders, Black Fish and Red Hawk. When Col. Bowman found his soldiers were fighting to disadvantage, he ordered a retreat. The retreating army had reached where Spring Valley, Ohio, is today, when the Indians began to press hard upon the rear and continued with a scattering fire for the next ten miles, until Adjutant Gen. Bedinger, with about 100 men on horseback rushed on the Indian ranks and they retreated. Although the Indians were not completely subdued, their engagement taught them a lesson for a short time.

MAJOR BUSH'S CAMPAIGN

Major John Bush was one of Boone County's pioneer citizens and lived in the North Bend bottoms and at that time it was called Campbell County. He was a member of the County Court Justices and took a prominent part in the warfare against Indians and volunteered in the expedition of General Harman. In 1709 he crossed the river to Cincinnati and left with the army that had congregated there for the purpose of chastising the Indians who had been disturbing the settlements in Northern Kentucky and the southern part of Ohio and Indiana.

They followed the Big Miami and when they reached Piqua and St. Mary they encountered the Indians and a two-day battle took place. Major Bush says the first day he had charge of 20 men, the advance guard of the army, and had orders to fire on any force he encountered and if the number were ten thousand it was his duty to charge through them and form at their back. Bush further says that his detachment was drawn into ambuscade with a loss of one-third their number and his superior officer was killed and when he tried to retrieve the body his sword was shot from his hand and a ball pierced his cheek.

The army having been defeated returned home. Mr. Bush was very prominent and as an inducement to come to Cincinnati, he was offered a lot at the corner of Main and Front Street 100 feet by 200 feet for the sum of \$100. This was in 1793 and when our county was organized in 1798 he was offered 200 acres of land at the intersection of the Licking River and Ohio for the sum of \$200 but he refused the offer stating "I would rather live in the North Bend Bottoms in Boone County."

Orders were given to retreat and the horsemen were directed to ride as far as they could with safety to the rear and bring up the men who were given out. During this maneuver his horse got mired in the mud with another man on the horse with him. When he had him to dismount, two Indians suddenly appeared and took him captive. He then dismounted and started running. He was fired upon and the noise from the discharge of the gun scared the horse so badly that it caused it to free itself. When the horse passed by him, it was regained and mounted.

BOWMAN'S CAMPAIGN

No better description of Bowman's campaign could be given than that by the Adjutant General, George M. Bedinger. Dr. Draper says he obtained this information from the lips of Geo. M. Bedinger.

We left Sheperdstown March 1, 1776. There were 12 of us including myself working our way to Boonesboro by way of Powell's Valley and Cumberland Gap until we came to the Boone Trail, which we followed to Boonesboro. While here Capt. John Holder was organizing a company (In connection with the Logans Station and Harrods Stations) to make a raid on the Indian settlements at Old Chillicothe, Ohio, stating that they were to meet at the mouth of the Licking and reorganize Col. John Bowman was County Lieutenant of Kentucky County, Virginia, at this time and had command of all the companies. Mr. Bedinger says their company followed the valley of the Licking River until they came to Bank Lick stream, which they followed until they reached the place where Covington is now situated.

Mr. Bedinger had never met Col. Bowman and he was introduced to him by Capt. Holder as a man of considerable experience in Indian war-fare and he was appointed Adjutant General. He says they crossed the Ohio River and followed the Little Miami River to the Indian village (near where Xenia is now located) unobserved by the Indians, Logan's forces on the left of the village. Harrod's on the right and Holder's in front of the town, in the high grass. All was quiet until midnight when an Indian who had been hunting came upon Holder's company and said "Who is there?". A man by the name of Ross shot him and he gave a loud yell. The noise of the rifle shot alarmed the dogs and they began to bark.

The Indians were aroused and fled to the large council house in the center of the village. Holder's men lay still until 8 or 10 of the Indians approached. When they cocked their rifles the Indians retreated and the men fired and wounded several of them. At this point Harrod's and Logan's men ran into the town and shots were exchanged but most of the men were busy setting fire to the cabins and collecting spoils, such as silver ornaments, blankets, and guns.

An attempt was made to storm the council house but the Indians fired through the cracks.

Black Fish and Red Hawk urged their men saying, "Remember you are warriors. Your invaders Kentucky squaws. You can easily con-

quer them." Then they all would cry. "Ye-awe,ye-awe,ye-awe."

After about 35 cabins had been burned the soldiers began to hunt the horses out-side the town and corralled 135. Mr. Bedinger and 15 other men screened themselves behind a large oak log, about 50 yards from the council house and expected a vigorous attack would be made at day-light against this fortification, but this was doomed as Col. Bowman had given the signal to retreat.

Mr. Bedinger says, at 9 o'clock, 7 men behind the logs had been killed and he ordered the rest to put their hats on sticks and raise them above the logs and draw the Indian fire and before they could reload they made their escape but were followed and were continually harassed from the rear. When Major Bedinger called for men who had fought with Morgan at Quebec and they responded a rush was made upon the Indians. Black Fish and Red Hawk were singled out and both were killed. The Indians then retreated and the soldiers returned to the mouth of the Licking where they divided the spoils and each company returned to their settlement.

It is believed that they met at a spring on Horse Branch Creek to care for the wounded and to divide the horses and other items captured from the Indians.

FORMATION OF COUNTIES

We shall now give you a brief history of the formation of some of the early counties, and by so doing the reader will readily see that many events took place in what is now Boone County while it was under the jurisdiction of another County. In fact from 1800 to 1870 nearly every time the legislature meet they organized one or more counties. When Kentucky was admitted as a state there were only nine counties. During 1776 a part of Fincastle County, Virginia, was cut off and called Kentucky county and in 1780 Kentucky county was divided into three parts, viz: Jefferson, Lincoln, and Fayette. In 1785, Bourbon was organized out of Fayette. In 1788 Mason was organized out of Bourbon and Woodford out of Fayette. During 1792 Scott was organized out of Woodford and in 1793 Harrison County out of Scott and Woodford. During 1794 Campbell County was organized out of Harrison, Scott and Mason and in 1798 Boone County was established out of Campbell. No further changes were made in this horseshoe bend in the Ohio river until 1840 when Kenton County was organized out of Campbell. So we

readily can see that all events that took place in Boone after 1794 to 1798 or in Kenton prior to 1840 were Campbell County events.

The first courts of Campbell County which in 1794 included Boone and Kenton were held at Wilmington on the Licking River but in 1795 it was moved to Newport. Boone and Kenton had representatives in the County Court. Mr. John Bush from the North Bend bottom represented this section of Campbell County. In 1789 Gen. Harmer sent Captains Strong and Kearsey to procure food for the soldiers that were stationed at Fort Washington to protect the settlement, they having been without food and were ready to abandon their post if not supplied at once. Mr. John S. Wallace who was a trader and lived close by the Fort selected a Mr. John Dement and John Drennon to go with him down the Ohio river. After reaching Big Bone Creek they secreted their canoe in the mouth of this stream and in a few days had killed deer, bear, and buffalo enough to last the garrison of 70 men until provisions had arrived from Pittsburg. So we see this happened nine years before Boone County was organized, but it took place on what is now Boone County soil.

DESCRIPTION

The previous articles that have appeared on the early history of Boone county applied to it before it became organized as a county, in fact before the state of Kentucky was separated from Virginia. Perhaps it would be well here to have the reader understand that the people of Kentucky County, Virginia, in 1784 called a convention at Danville and discussed the separation from Virginia, and after eight different conventions had been called extending over a period of five years, Virginia passed an act December 1, 1789 agreeing to a separation. A ninth convention was called by the people of Kentucky county and the act of Virginia was accepted July 26, 1790, which fixed June 1, 1792, as the date Kentucky was to be admitted as a State, "never having been a territory of the Federal Government."

In order to bring government nearer its people the state began the organization of the counties and in 1798 Boone county, the 30th, was organized out of the western part of Campbell county and in honor of Daniel Boone "the old pioneer."

Our county has an average length of about 20 miles and an average width of 15 miles and is bounded on the East by Kenton county

on the South by Grant and Gallatin counties and on the North and West by the Ohio river which flows along its border for about 40 miles.

The county as a whole would be classed as generally hilly, but in the main it is nearly all tillable, the river bottoms for a distance of forty miles are exceedingly productive and the hill land produces fine tobacco and pasture, while fruit growing is taking a great step forward as shown by the two-day fruit course and apple show at Covington, Kentucky, November 21, and 22, 1924.

Boone county has no very large streams, yet we find Gunpower, Big Bone, Mud Lick, Woopler and Middle creek often inquired for by some city folks in the hope of passing a quiet day along their banks.

When our country was organized in 1798 the population consisted of 1400 persons and its first State Senator was Squire Grant, and the first State Representative was William Arnold.

ROADS AND MAIL SERVICE

It has been 126 years since Florence was named and incorporated as a village, with a population of 63.

The Covington and Lexington Roadway at that time was a dirt road. Taverns and all means of stopping places were being built along this roadway, this called for improvement in the building of roads.

The state, in 1830, began to take active part in the road improvement. By 1835 the Lexington-Covington turnpike had been completed from Covington to Florence, a distance of about 10 miles and 15 miles North of Lexington, that left about 50 miles. 20 miles farther North had been graded, but no stone or gravel was placed upon it. This left about one half the distance ungraded through which the stage coach had to plow between Cincinnati and Lexington. Transporting the mail was often delayed two or three days, due to the bad condition of the road.

Remember Florence had a daily mail service beginning April 27, 1830. The coach that transported this mail proceeded to Lexington. It would arrive in Cincinnati every morning at 7 A.M. and depart at 10 A.M. The horses that were used to draw these coaches were generally given a rest and others substituted at Florence or Williamstown until the return trip was made.

We also had a mail route to Lawrenceburg, Indiana by way of Burlington 3 times a week, at 9 A.M. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

It left Lawrenceburg, by way of Burlington to Cincinnati, 10 A.M. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

I find a clipping in the Western Statesman, 1831, from James W. Hunter, Post Master at Lawrenceburg stating that a stage line had been established from Lawrenceburg to Cincinnati, leaving Lawrenceburg at 6 A.M., Monday, Wednesday and Friday and leaving Cincinnati Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday arriving at Lawrenceburg at 1 P.M., from this we assume that this mail route by horse back by way of Burlington to Lawrenceburg was discontinued about 1831.

Cincinnati has always been the terminal of our mail service and her first Post Office was established in 1793. The first Postmaster was Abner Dunn, who held the office until his death in 1795, when Daniel Mayo assumed the office a short time after September 1795. W. Maxwell became the third Postmaster and was succeeded by William Ruffin. He was appointed by George Washington in 1796, held office until he resigned in 1814.

On January 29, 1830, the state made its first appropriation in conjunction with individual stock holders the road was completed by 1838 Toll gates were erected at convenient places, mainly at cross roads for the purpose of paying and up keep of the roads. Two of these toll gate houses were built between Florence and Walton. They are still in existence, being removed to different locations and made into residences or at place of business.

ROAD BUILDING

When Kentucky was admitted as a state in, 1792, the question of internal improvement became the great issue and a better and more rapid way of transportation was undertaken by trying to find the ways and means of building roads. We should remember that the same laws that applied to Virginia during a short period applied to Kentucky.

In 1797 an act was passed for the opening of new roads and surveyors were appointed by the courts to survey routes over which roads could be constructed and all male laboring persons over 16 years of age were required to work the roads, except those who were masters of two or more slaves over said age or be fined \$1.25 per day for each day's absence or neglect to work. The surveyors were ordered, also, to make these roads out of stone, timber, or earth and to receive their pay from each county levy of taxes as the law provided.

In March, 1797, Joseph Crockett was appointed to make a turn-pike leading from Crab Orchard and intersect with the trail that led from Madison Court House to Cumberland Gap.

He completed this road and it was farmed out to the highest bidder. Robert Craig was the successful bidder on this road, and established a toll gate on the road and collected toll as follows: for every person except Post Riders, expresses, women and children under the age of ten years, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents. Every horse, two wheel carriage, cattle $4\frac{1}{6}$ per head. All surplus funds were to belong to the keeper of the toll road for keeping the same passable. This road was made of earth and graded 15 to 18 feet wide. This was the beginning of road building in our state and on February 4th, 1817, the legislature passed an act for the purpose of forming artificial roads.

On February 8th, 1819, a Charter was granted to a stock company to build an artificial stone road from Georgetown to Cincinnati. This road was to follow the same course as the Dixie Highway but the U.S. Government was at that time building a National Highway west from Baltimore and the Legislature of Kentucky by a resolution February 3rd, 1828, recommended to Congress to extend a branch from Zanesville, Ohio, down through Kentucky, but it appears that when it came to a vote a Kentucky senator voted against this proposition and all senators from the Southern States did likewise. After this measure was lost the State then became more active and began to make appropriations on condition that the State would contribute \$1.00 every time the subscriber and stockholder contributed \$30.00 for the purpose of building a McAdamized road and by 1837 the State had spent \$26,000 on the road from Covington to Williamstown, a distance of 37 miles, and when it was completed to Lexington, 85 miles, it had cost the State around \$170,000 besides what the stockholders paid and subscriptions. This road was built of broken stone and spread 9 to 10 inches deep and the roadway was graded 20 to 50 feet wide and the stone laid 16 to 20 feet wide.

Toll gates were built at convenient places, and it became the most traveled road in the State and paid the best dividend (4%) of any road in the State. About 12 miles of this road lies in Boone county. When the auto appeared these toll roads charged 20 cents a mile for a motor driven machine, this had a tendency to keep the auto off the roads as the horse and buggy days were here and the horses became frightened and caused many accidents. Think of it, \$2.40 for a round trip from Florence to Burlington!

BOONE COUNTY FIRSTS

The first white man to visit Boone County was M. Longuiel who was at Big Bone Lick in 1739.

The first white woman in Boone County was Mrs. Mary Inglis at Big Bone Lick, 1756.

The first settlement was Tanner's Station (Petersburg) in 1783.

The first white child born was Polly Ann Ryle in 1790.

The first white child born after the county was organized was John Underhill, 1798.

The first survey was made by Thomas Bullitt in 1773 at Big Bone Lick and the second survey was made by John Floyd in 1774.

The first state senator was Squire Crant, 1801.

The first representative was William Arnold, 1801.

The first Baptist church was organized at Bullittsburg in 1794.

The first census of Boone County was taken by the U. S. Government in 1800—population 1534.

The first salt manufactured in Boone County was by the Indians at Big Bone Lick.

The first salt made by the white men was in 1812 at Big Bone Lick.

The first shoemaker, Wm. Underhill, was at Taylorsport in 1790.

The first run-away slaves ever advertised were in 1794. A reward of \$15 was offered.

The first Baptist preacher was John Tanner 1789—the second was Lewis Dewees in 1792.

The first agricultural fair in Boone County was held at Florence in 1855.

The first prisoner ever captured by the Indians was John Tanner in 1790, age 9 years. This boy lived with the Indians for 28 years after his capture.

The first town to be incorporated was Burlington in 1824.

Aaron Burr made his first trip through Florence in 1805 and his second trip in 1806.

General LaFayette and his son, Col. Geo. Washington LaFayette, passed the night at Florence in 1826. The writer of this article has a fifty cent coin that was issued by the Mint in 1820 that the General used to pay part of his lodging.

The first school term established in Boone County consisted of 3 months—1838.

In 1869 the school term was extended to five months.

The first Lutheran Church was organized in 1807.

The first Lutheran preacher was William Carpenter who came in 1813.

The first Christian Church was at Florence in 1835. The original building burned and was replaced in 1842 by the brick building which still stands.

The first Methodist Church was organized in 1842 and Reverend Gilby was the first minister.

The coldest day in Boone County from 1818 to 1870 was January 19, 1857, when the temperature fell to $24\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below zero.

The hottest day from 1818 to 1870 was September 3, 1854, when the temperature soared to 102 degrees. Also on August 14, 1870 the temperature rose to 102.

The first railroad(a short line)was from Covington to Louisville and was built in 1869.

The first serious accident on the short line railroad was near Verona. A train fell through an iron bridge killing 2 and wounding 53 in 1872.

The first horse to bring fame to Boone County was Purity, bred by L. A. Loder.

The first law enacted to allow Boone County to levy a tax to purchase tools to be used on public roads was in 1822.

The first charter granted to build the road from Georgetown to Cincinnati was in 1861—this is known as Dixie Highway.

According to John Uri Lloyd, the only time the Confederate Flag ever flew over the State Capital building at Frankfort, it was hung there by Felix Moses. He was a Jew peddler who traded in Boone County for many years.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS

It is a credit to the State of Kentucky to know that she owed her intellectual development to the fact that at the close of the Revolutionary war, in 1781, many of her officers and soldiers from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland sought homes in Kentucky.

At least three thousand of these brave men came to our State. It is difficult to trace them as the pension records only have names of the wounded and invalid. Many refused aid from the Government they had

helped make free and many died or were killed by Indians during the period from 1781 to 1798, when Boone county was organized, or 1840 when Kenton county was organized.

The writer has searched old records and will vouch for these men who served in the Revolutionary War.

Boone County: Joseph Barlow, William Brady, Jacob Brenno, Peter Brumback, John H. Craig, Daniel Goff, Richard Hubbell, Cave Johnson, A. Ross, John Brown, Hugh Steers, John Tomlinson, Geo. West, Jerusha Alexander.

Kenton County: Joseph Casey, Stephen Collins, John Ducker, John Keen, Edmund Massey, Wm. Worthington, Nancy McGlasson.

No doubt there are several more but our ancestors are dead. We failed to get this information while they lived and very few records are now available.

EARLY CURRENCY PROBLEMS

The early settlers of Boone county experienced difficulty in making change with currency. In the early times, skins of raccoons, minks and other animals were used for currency. When our first settlers came they brought a small supply with them. Most of this was silver coin, this was the Spanish milled dollar and it failed to relieve the small change shortage.

Mr. Tanner, in his 1816 shop book, states that these silver dollars were laid on the anvil and cut into four equal parts or quarters, worth twenty-five cents each. Very often it would be cut into eight equal parts and when so cut this money was called "sharp skins" because of its wedge shape. If the change was less than $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents the shopkeeper generally gave pins, pencils, or needles as change.

During the period of 1816 Mr. David Thomas, a scientist, traveled through Boone County and this is what he says, "In this district, cut money is very common, if change cannot be made, the chisel and mallet are introduced, but there is a speculation even in the business, for one-fifth is often palmed on the traveler for a quarter. This invention is supposed to be of Kentucky origin and was probably caused by necessity."

"In this country, so far as we can discover, the banks have done nothing to accommodate the people with change."

The writer has found that the milled dollar was often cut into five quarters or ten eights. This practice was justified on the grounds that a person should be paid for expense of coinage.

A Mr. John Bartle conducted two large stores, one in Cincinnati and one in Newport. He became exasperated at the wedge-shaped coins and had them barreled and shipped by water to Pittsburgh, then by wagon to Philadelphia. There the first mint was located and had all these sharp-skin pieces recoined.

He also had the mint officials send him several barrels of those large pennies, which are dated 1824-1825, some earlier and some later than these dates.

A number of Boone County people have them as keepsakes.

It seems that Mr. Bartle got the jump on other store keepers and they thought of mobbing him at one time, but finally concluded to barrel their own and have them recoined.

The writer of this article has in his possession twenty large pennies and several two-cent pieces, a fifty-cent dated 1820, and one dated 1826. There came a time in 1873 that all specie payments were suspended and all silver change disappeared and paper money (shin-plasters) in amounts of less than one dollar were issued by cities, towns, and villages.

There being so many different varieties and backed by different people, the exigencies of the Civil War of 1862 demanded a substitute for the retired silver change and the government of the U.S. issued fractional currency.

The writer of this article has two of these and they are also called "shin-plasters." This fractional currency was issued in March 1863 and on the back we find inscribed the following: "This note is exchangeable for United States Notes by the Assistant Treasurer and designated depositories of the United States."

This act of the government gave this currency uniformity of value freedom of circulation and a certainty of redemption of the larger national currency, the legal tender and national bank notes.

There were very few banks for the Boone County settlers to patronize. The nearest one was a private and only temporary one established in Covington in 1821 by Benjamin W. Leathers in connection with his store. This bank was organized when fractional currency was called for. Mr. Leathers issued his own promise to pay or "shin-plaster" in demoninations of $6\frac{1}{4}$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 25 and 50 cents. This seemed to have helped, but the day of redemption came, and Mrs. Leathers took them in like an honest banker. He threw them in a large fireplace, little realizing that a strong wind carried them up the flue, and deposited them in the street in front of his store where people picked them up and had them cashed the second time.

Finding his assets nearly exhausted, he found the wind caused all the "shin-plasters" to go up the flue. He then got an old trunk and deposited all "shin-plasters" there-in, and took them to the Beechwood Farm where under his watchful eye he could see the flames of fire consume them.

FROM CINCINNATI NEWSPAPERS, 1813

Col. Johnson's big bull dog got mashed to death in John Houston's wolf trap.

Col. Sebree and John Hornsby, who took a flat boat load of pork to New Orleans, have returned. They gave a thrilling account of their return afoot through the Indian country. They came through Nashville, Tennessee, and report Gen. Jackson raising a large army to meet the British at New Orleans.

Col. John J. Flournoy, who lives in the big house in Petersburg, received a clock from Philadelphia two or three weeks ago, the first one in Boone County. People from far and near go to see the wonderful machine. Mrs. Parker's black man Jack, went to see it Sunday, and when he returned home he said he heard it strike seventeen times and still kept on clocking.

Our women are busy with spinning wheels and looms, making material to clothe the soldiers under Gen. Harrison and Dick Johnson.

Robert Mosby and Mary Spangler were married during the holidays. The bride was handsomely attired in a linsey dress of her own making, from the spinning wheel up. The groom looked every inch a man in his regulation suit of brown jeans. Robert Kirtley, the youthful pastor of Bullittsburg Church, performed the ceremony.

Kittlehead John Grant returned lately from the army near the Great Lakes, where he was shot in the knee by an Indian and disabled for further duty.

The keel boat Christopher Columbus, passed up from New Orleans to Pittsburgh last week, heavily loaded with sugar and molassess, 57 days out. It took three hours of hard pulling and cussing to get her through the swift water in front of Laughery bar.

Bears have been very destructive on hogs this winter. They raid somebody's hog pen almost nightly.

While Sam Johnson was breaking flax, the brush took fire and destroyed nearly everything around.

Expectation has been on tip-toe for some time on account of a report that a steam-boat would pass down the river on its way from Pittsburgh to New Orleans.

RABBIT HASH

From old Kentucky history books, old papers, private diaries of men who explored the river front of Boone County I gain the following information:

During 1816 Mr. Meeks conducted a ferry across the Ohio river to what is now Rising Sun, Indiana. During the period between 1816 and 1840 a great number of salt agents and fur agents traveled the route from Cincinnati by way of Rising Sun, crossing the Ohio river at Meeks' ferry.

It so happened that two of these agents going in opposite directions met at the landing on the Indiana shore when one remarked, "Can you get anything to eat at Meeks' ferry?" The other replied, "Yes, plenty rabbit hash." It was at this time that the Ohio river was just receding from flood water that had driven all the rabbits from the lowlands to the hillsides where they were killed in great numbers and used as food called "rabbit hash."

Rabbit Hash lost its name for a short period of time. In 1879 she felt big enough to ask Uncle Sam to let her have a Post Office as all other places in Boone County had one and why not she? So Uncle Sam granted her a Post Office on January 3, 1879, it was called Carlton, with Mrs. Elizabeth C. Kennon as Postmaster.

Where there is a cause there is surely an effect and no Rabbit Hashers or Carltonians received any mail. What was the cause? One man found the cause when lingering in Carrollton, Carroll County, Ky. and Uncle Sam advised a change of name in the Post Office and on the 12th day of March, 1879, Uncle Sam had its baptismal name restored (Rabbit Hash) as a Post Office and it has retained this name to the present time. When the rural routes became popular about 1912 Uncle Sam discontinued the post office. The name Rabbit Hash will be here as long as Bunny exists. He still knows his way to the hillside when the floods come.

HOPEFUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Do you know the third oldest church in Boone County was erected at Hopeful in 1807 and if the building industry keeps going westerly as it had during the past four years, there is reason to believe that this territory which was a wilderness 150 years ago will become a part of the city of Florence in the not too-distant future.

What was here in 1807? Just a little log church and five log houses to accommodate a colony of religious home seekers that wished to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and clear the forests and make the land tillable so that they and their children would have a future home.

We have past evidence that they did their part well. In 1813 they employed Rev. William Carpenter as a regular pastor and in 1823 the congregation had so grown in numbers that a new and larger log church was built. Their minister, Rev. Carpenter, passed away in 1833.

The Rev. Jacob Crigler of Berlin, Pa. was called and became their pastor and remained there until 1842. It was during his time, 1837, that a brick church was erected. It continued to be used as a place of worship until 1917, when the present church building was completed.

In searching over our records we find that Rev. Crigler was a faithful, progressive pastor. He was heartily in favor of preaching his sermons in English instead of German, although he formerly lived in the state of Pennsylvania, a state opposed to slavery, when he came here he purchased a slave woman named Tina for the sum of \$180, on the 30th day of December, 1839. This slave had previously belonged to Joseph Kendrick and Jacob Clarkson.

Rev. Crigler after leaving Hopeful in 1842 went to Ohio and organized several Lutheran churches. He returned in 1845 to his farm near Hopeful, where he died in 1847.

RYLE FAMILY

During the autumn of 1790 two brothers James and John Ryle with their families, a sister and a colored slave left North Carolina for Boone County, following the Daniel Boone trail. James, Jr., age 9, a son of James Ryle, rode on a horse all the way behind the colored slave. They arrived at Tanner's Station, (Petersburg) in his fort, and while there a daughter was born to James Ryle and wife, (Polly Ann Ryle) undoubtedly the first white child born in Boone county. When she became grown she married William Presser, and was the mother of the late Hogan Presser.

In the spring of 1791 they left the fort at Petersburg and located near the mouth of Middle Creek, where they remained for about two years, but the land being swampy they contracted fever and were compelled to seek higher ground, purchasing from the government a

great number of acres of hill land near Waterloo and Belleview at a low cost of 72½¢ per acre. A great part of this land is still in possession of the Ryle family.

As a whole all the former immigrants to Boone County were religious, the Ryle's united with the Bullittsburg Baptist church, walking a distance of 14 miles to their church on Sunday, taking their dinner with them. This church was their place of worship until 1803, when the settlers along Middle Creek erected for themselves the old Middle Creek Baptist church. (Now called the Belleview Baptist church). A few of the settlers of Middle Creek in addition to the Ryle's were the Hogan's, Porter's, Presser's, Campbell's, and John Marshall who had fought in the French and Indian wars and died at the ripe old age of 91 years.

LEONARD STEPHENS

Leonard Stephens was the younger of two boys and was born in Orange Co., Va., March 10th, 1791 and died in Boone County, Ky. March 8, 1873. With the aid of his father and brother John, he erected a fine colonial mansion on the Richardson pike not far from the Boone County line and at that time the residence was in Campbell county, as Kenton county was not organized until 1840.

When Mr. Stephens came here with his father in 1807 there was no Williamstown, Dry Ridge, Walton or Florence. Cincinnati had two brick buildings, two frame buildings and a few log cabins. Burlington had a log court house, a log jail and a few cabins. Where Covington is now located we find that Thomas Kennedy had a stone residence at what is now Second and Garrard Streets. Mr. Kennedy also operated the ferry across the Ohio River and transferred the soldiers who took part in the Indian raids. His craft consisted of row boats for foot passengers and the cost per person was 12 cents. For carrying horses across he used large flat boats controlled by oars. In 1823 when the side wheel or treadle came into use, this mode of transportation was used until 1833, when steam ferry boats were used. This was the best crossing for travel of the inhabitants over the Ridge Road for the central part of the State.

Mr. Stephens represented Campbell County in the lower House of the General Assembly from 1823 to 1826 and the counties of Campbell and Boone from 1829 to 1833 in the Senate.

Mr. Stephens built his large brick home on the Richardson Pike with the assistance of his father and brother. The bricks were made by them and this mansion was the high spot for Northern Kentucky politicians, who met with him in his mansion, then off to Big Bone Springs where the candidates for office would plan the strategy that was needed to become an office holder for the county or state. Big Bone Springs from 1815 up to 1845 was one of the best watering places and health resorts west of the Alleghany Mountains, an ideal place at the Clay Hotel (named for Henry Clay) for Mr. Stephens, who was always deeply engrossed in politics. When Kenton County was organized in 1840 he became the first high sheriff, he held the office of Justice of the Peace of Campbell County in 1839.

Mr. Stephens was a member of the old Dry Creek Baptist Church and took an active part in the proceedings of the Association, which was held there September 25 and 26, 1819. During April, 1855, letters of dismission were given to D. M. Scott, Benjamin Dulaney, Leonard Stephens, Henry Snyder, Sally Snyder, Polly Scott, and Louisanna Finch for the purpose of constituting a Church at Florence. We find later during the year 1855 seven others were dismissed in order that they might be received on application to the Florence Baptist Church. The names of the messengers that requested admittance into the Association were Leonard Stephens and D. M. Scott. We further find that Mr. Stephens continued to represent the Florence Baptist Church as a Messenger to all the Baptist Association meetings until 1861.

Mr. Stephens died March 8, 1873 (aged 82). He was laid at rest in a family cemetery near the colonial residence he built. The residence is now gone and a brick bungalow adorns the site.

FIGHTING NEAR FLORENCE

During the Civil War, great excitement was caused in Boone County when Gen. Kirby Smith marched his army in and around Lexington. Brig. Gen. Henry Heath with 5000 veteran Confederate troops from Gen. Smith's army was camped at Corinth and several companies had reached Snow's pond near Walton, thus threatening the three cities of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport.

Had Gen. Heath moved immediately upon these cities no doubt he could have captured them, but he was prevented by orders from Gen. Smith who held until Gen. Bragg, who had the main army and

was at the present time at Paris gave orders to move and Gen. Bragg failed to send such orders. In the meantime the people of Cincinnati were alert. Business houses closed and nearly all business suspended.

All male citizens, ministers of the gospel, old men, were forced into military service and drilling these undisciplined men was begun. Large earthworks were thrown up at Ft. Mitchell and at Ft. Perry in order to protect these three cities.

Gen. Lew Wallace was in command of all the forces around Cincinnati, September 15, 1862, his pickets encountered the Confederate advance guard at Florence, where an engagement took place between these two forces, and one man was killed. The Confederates fell back as far as Walton. A skirmish took place near here and one company of Union soldiers was captured and the regiment put to flight, retreating back to the entrenchments south of Covington.

Gen. Wallace then ordered several regiments to proceed out the Covington and Lexington Turnpike and when they arrived near Walton Gen. Basil W. Duke, with a regiment of Morgan's Confederate Cavalry hastened up the Ohio River in order to make a crossing and threaten Cincinnati from the East, thus expecting to draw back the Union soldiers which were near Walton. The Union officers immediately sent two gunboats, the Belfast and Allen Collier to prevent this crossing, but the Confederates had howitzers and the gunboats fled down the river and out of range of the cannon fire.

A fierce battle was fought near Augusta, in which 125 home guards fought so bravely that Gen. Duke after losing 21 killed and 18 wounded fell back towards Brooksville and this ended any further threat by the Confederates.

DESTRUCTION OF A MILL

The story of the Civil War has been written and many books have been printed. These books cannot be large enough to contain all the incidents of local interest. To many people the community happenings are of most interest. One purpose of the Boone County Historical Society is to record as many of these incidents as can be found.

Kentucky tried to remain neutral, but she finally abandoned this position and, being a border state, she soon became a recruiting station and battle ground for both the North and South. We find Boone County men enlisting in the Northern army and in the Confederate army.

Sometimes brothers in the same family faced each other in battle.

Many slaves escaped or were stolen from their master and transported across the Ohio for enlistment in the U. S. Army. A bounty was offered for such enlistment. Reports indicate that this bounty was seldom collected. All captured slaves were ordered enlisted in Kentucky Regiments by the Provost Marshal of each County.

General Stephen Burbridge ordered the arrest of a number of citizens of Boone County because they had been reported as having sympathized with the South. Some of these were Dr. John Dulaney, Spencer Fish, Henry Terrell, Warren Rogers, Edmond Grant, James T. Grant, Julius Rouse, and George E. Rouse. Mr. Fish will be remembered as owning a great many acres of land west of Shelby street in Florence. At a very early date he formed the Fish Subdivision to the city of Florence. The City Clerk is trying to locate a copy of the plat of this subdivision. He would be glad to know where one can be found. Dr. John Dulaney was a practicing physician who had a wide practice throughout Boone County during the War.

Boone County borders on the Ohio River for about forty miles and since sympathy was divided, information was constantly conveyed to military authorities on both sides. The Federal headquarters at Fort Mitchell received much information concerning actions of southern sympathizers in Boone County.

General Lew Wallace, who commanded all of the forces in the area, pressed all male citizens into the military services for the defense of Covington, Newport, and Cincinnati. Ministers of the Gospel and old men were not exempt from this service.

General Kirby Smith had marched his army in and around Lexington, Brigadier-General Heath, with 5,000 confederate veterans from Smith's army was encamped at Corinth and several of his companies had reached Snow's Pond near Walton. At that time there were several mills in the county for grinding corn. The soldiers began searching for these mills.

Mr. Will Aydelotte told the writer that he was a boy of about ten years of age at the time. As he was helping his father cut wood along the Union-Florence road they saw many wagons drawn by four mules, loaded with ground corn and slabs of bacon, on their way to Snow's Pond. General Heath's army was preparing to move as soon as sufficient supplies were on hand. There is no doubt but that General Smith felt that this twenty-mile distance on the Ridge Road was the logical way to advance on Covington, Newport, and Cincinnati.

Another means of securing food was from the mill on the farm of Julius Rouse, two and one half miles from Florence on the Burlington Pike. Here the advanced companies of Smith's army received a great many loads of ground corn and wheat. On September 15, 1862, the owners of the mill were arrested on the charge of aiding the Confederates and the officers of General Wallace blew the mill to atoms.

In 1902 the writer, while plowing, turned up debris of this mill about 200 yards from where it originally stood. There was but one thought that entered his mind and that was the poem in McGuffey's Fifth Reader entitled "The Battle of Blenheim." In it the grandfather saw his grandson roll something large and round and repeated, "Tis some poor fellow's skull, and when I go to plow, the plow share turns them out."

After the day's work was completed, the mules stabled and fed, and supper over, and everyone seated on a wooden bench on the front porch, the writer told his story of what his plow-share had brought up. The owner of the land in 1862 still owned it at the time in 1902. He began the story of the mill "My father and I owned this mill and did general mill work, both in sawing lumber and grinding corn and wheat until it was blown to atoms on September 15, 1862. We were arrested with several others and taken to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and put in a prison camp."

The above statement suggested a question and answer procedure in an effort to get the details of the destruction of the mill. Here is the story.

Question. "Did you grind corn for Smith's army?"

Answer. "It was for the soldiers at Snow's Pond."

Q. "Where were you when the mill blew up?"

A. "I was standing on the back porch under guard and saw the mill go up and debris go in all directions."

Q. "What happened after the mill was blown up?"

A. The men returned and said, "We want to search your house as we understand you have a gun and pistol in your bedroom."

Q. "Did you show any disposition to prevent the search?"

A. "No, they seemed to know exactly where the gun and pistol were hidden."

Q. "What happened after the search?"

A. "They came out on the porch with gun and pistol."

Q. "What happened to the gun and pistol?"

A. "One of the men asked me if the gun was loaded."

- Q. "State what you told him."
- A. "I told him the gun was not loaded."
- Q. "What did he then do?"
- A. "He stepped off the porch and fired it into the air."
- Q. "What effect did this have on you?"
- A. "I was wishing all the time that it had been loaded to the end of the barrel."
- Q. "What was the next procedure?"
- A. "The officers then went to the barn and saddled a riding horse and had father and myself to accompany them, which we did."
- Q. "Where did they proceed with you?"
- A. "On leaving the farm the officers had us to ride ahead of them to the Burlington and Florence Pike, then we followed the pike to Limaburg, and we were held there until two of the officers went beyond Burlington and returned with several men. Then we followed the Limaburg and Hebron road to the farm of (the writer here will blank the name). The officers were treated to a pitcher full of cold water and cake. A lengthy conversation took place, then we moved forward to Hebron. When we reached Hebron we turned left and followed the road towards Petersburg until we reached Bullittsburg where we were halted again, and several officers reconnoitered and came back with several men. Then we began our journey forward and finally crossed the Ohio River and were put in a prison camp near Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Tents were used for sleeping and shelter."
- Q. "What opinion did you have of a military prison camp?"
- A. "Well it would do all right but every Sunday visitors came in roaming about and would pull back the flaps of our tents and stare at us as if we were wild animals."
- Q. "How long were you in the prison camp?"
- A. "About two weeks and then we were sent to Cincinnati and we sent for an influential citizen who resided at Hebron, Boone County, to come over and he came over and through him we took the oath of allegiance to the U. S. Government and were told then to go home.

After the return home an organization was established among a goodly number of these men so that when they became drafted they could pool their money and purchase a substitute. Several of these men were drafted, but evaded service in this way, yet by skillful manipulation substitutes seldom received what was allotted for them. One man, who was treasurer of the above organization, told the writer that he had in his possession oft times as much as \$5,000 for the purpose of purchasing substitutes.

Note: The mill was on Gunpowder Creek a short distance below where the Florence-Burlington Pike crosses the creek. The bridge there is known as the George Rouse bridge.

LARKIN VAUGHN KILLED

We had the opportunity to have a chat with William Aydelotte, a man that was born in Florence on September 14, 1851. Although old in years, Mr. Aydelotte's mind is keen and he can give much information in reference to Boone County, as we can readily see that he was ten years old when the Civil War broke out and remembers quite well that he and his father were cutting wood on the Union pike, when a company of Union soldiers were retreating back toward Ft. Mitchell, and in trying to cover their retreat kept firing along the Lexington pike. At the junction of Shelby Street and the Lexington pike Larkin Vaughn was shot and died as he was being carried to a nearby house.

He also stated that the Confederate soldiers did not attempt to go any farther than the intersection of the Union pike with the Lexington pike, then wheeled to the left and went out the Union pike with a dozen wagons. In about three hours they returned with their vehicles loaded with ground corn and wheat and a great number of sides of bacon. The camp was located at Snow's pond near Walton.

FIRST HOUSE

The first house built in Florence was opposite the school at the junction of Oblique and Center Streets.

The writer has a record of the boy who lived in this house during the Civil War and helped carry Larkin Vaughn from the junction of Shelby and Main Streets when he was shot by a stray bullet from the advance guard of Gen. Wallace's army stationed at Ft. Mitchell. After the Civil War was over John Latham purchased this house and moved it to the corner of Oblique Street and Burlington Pike, when it was used as a barn. It was later torn down.

BIG BONE LICK

From 1754 to 1763 the colonies hesitated to follow up their explorations in the Ohio Valley on account of the French and Indian war, but at its close we find Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia still encouraging the settlement of this vast territory.

Col. Geo. Croghan, an Indian agent, in 1765 visited Big Bone Lick and encamped there. Eight years later Virginia sent the following company of men: Thomas Bullit, Hancock Taylor, Robert McAfee, Simon Kenton, and James Douglas. We are indebted to Mr. Douglas for the records he kept of what he saw at Big Bone Lick. He says, "The Lick constituted about 10 acres, bare of trees, no herbage of any kind, three flowing springs whose waters would produce one bushel of salt to every 550 gallons of water, also a large number bones so large and long that he used the ribs for tent poles."

There have been four collections of these bones. The first collection was made in 1803 by Dr. Goforth who sent it to England where it was divided into three parts, viz: One part to the Royal College of Surgeons in London, one part to Dublin, Ireland, and the other to Edinburgh, Scotland.

The second collection was made by order of President Jefferson in 1805, this collection was divided between the America Philosophical Society and the French Naturalist, Mr. Cuvier. The third collection, 1819, by the Western Museum Society. The fourth in 1831 by Mr. Finnell, who sold the same for \$2,000 to a Mr. Graves, who resold to a firm in New York, for \$5,000. It has been estimated that the bones of at least 100 mastodons, 25 elephants and other animals were collected in the above four collections. No place in America (except Boone county) can boast of the findings of remains of pre-historic animals as were found in the above four collections. Undoubtedly these animals were in search of salt and as Mr. Douglas says, "The land being marshy they became mired in the mud and died of exhaustion, thus leaving many of their bones in an upright position."

BIG BONE LICK

The following article was prepared by A. M. Yealey of Florence, after Big Bone was chosen as one of the sites for the proposed State Park. Many interesting historical events are outlined by Mr. Yealey in the following article:

Big Bone Lick has long been remembered for its salt springs, the depository of bones of animals of the glacial age in North America and its geographical surroundings.

Twenty years ago the writer published articles stating that M. Longueuil was the first white man to visit the Lick, 1739. We should know that the French and Indian wars that were fought in the Ohio Valley from 1744 to 1763 prevented settlements in this region, and those that were getting a foothold were attacked and plundered.

Robert Smith, a frequent visitor at the Lick lived in the village of Pickwithanny. This hamlet was situated on the Big Miami River near Urbana, Ohio. Mr. Smith was a frequent visitor at the Lick from 1744 to 1751 and was the first person to realize the value of those large bones, and he had transported quite a number of them to the village where he lived when the French and Indians plundered and destroyed the village. There is no doubt that Mr. Smith, being the first visitor that knew these bones would be of great value to the twin sciences, viz. Geology and Paleontology had the choice and selected the best. So we may conclude that the first choice was lost or destroyed.

From 1751 to 1780 Big Bone had a great number of visitors. Christopher Gist, who was employed by the Ohio Land Company of Virginia, John Findley a fur trader, Mary Ingles the first white woman in Kentucky, George Croghan, a Kentucky explorer while here collected a great number of bones. During this period Kentucky was a county of Virginia and surveyors were sent to make land surveys. Therefore John Floyd and William Preston, surveyors of Fincastle County, Virginia made the first land grant surveys in 1774.

At the close of the French and Indian war the King of England gave the governor of Virginia the power to give grant land to American soldiers who fought for her during the last war against the French.

Thomas Jefferson was governor of Virginia during 1779 and 1780, and he made a land grant of 1000 acres to William Christian. This grant included all the springs, being the same tract surveyed by John Floyd in 1774.

Mr. Christian did not hold this land very long. In 1780 he sold the same to David Ross, a good friend to Jefferson. Mr. Ross was a real estate operator and held title to about 100,000 acres of land in Ohio and Kentucky. Most all this land was obtained by the purchase of grant lands that were sold by American soldiers, who had received them under the King of England's proclamation.

Mr. Rose finally got in debt so much that he was forced to dispose of the Big Bone tract. Therefore in 1806 he sold this tract to Wilson Allen, Edmund Rootes and Jacob Myers, but held possession of it (through the influence of Thomas Jefferson, who then was president of the United States) until 1808.

Mr. Ross then gave the president permission to make further search for these bones. The president then ordered Geo. Rogers Clark to have his brother William Clark and Meriwether Lewis, who had just returned from their famous expedition to the Oregon Territory, to employ laborers and collect as many of these bones as possible.

After three weeks' work, Mr. Clark shipped three large boxes of bones to Mr. Jefferson by the way of New Orleans. One of these boxes was opened and put on display in the White House, the other boxes were given to the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia and the National Institute of France, in Paris.

During the month of August, 1808, Mr. Ross completed his deal with Allen, Rootes and Myers, who became the owners. They did not fancy this wilderness and held the ownership but one year, 1809, and sold the tract to Mr. Colquhoun, who purchased it for the purpose of establishing a salt industry.

Salt had been manufactured here since 1756, but the cost was about \$4.00 per hundred-weight, which proved too high to be exported. Mr. Colquhoun thought he could reduce the cost of manufacture, and built two fine furnaces and mounted kettles that would hold from 15 gallons of water to one hundred gallons, but all his work was in vain. He found the great distance over bad roads made it too expensive. Mr. Tanner's shop book shows that he purchased salt on the Cincinnati market in 1812 at a cost of \$2.94 per barrel, or about 1½c a pound. This was the end of the salt industry at Big Bone, but the salt industry and the large bones had advertised and made the Springs known for their medical value through Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

A large hotel was built and called the Clay Hotel (named for Henry Clay). From 1815 to 1845 Big Bone was one of the best watering places and health resorts west of the Alleghany Mountains, equip-

ped with a fine hotel, a long row of bath houses, a large open pavillion.

Here in the evening we find the Negro slave fiddling the old Virginia reel, while his dancers and audience consist of representatives of the best families in Ohio and Indiana who came by steamboat on the Ohio River, landing at Hamilton, then traveling afoot or by hack to the Spring. But it was different with the bluegrass families. They came in their family coaches with their slave drivers and servants. It was not only a short visit, a great many spent the entire summer here.

Mr. Leonard Stephens, who became the first sheriff of Kenton County in 1840 was always deeply engrossed in politics from 1825 to 1845, made it his political domicile and all the politicians over the state would meet him there to plan the outlook for Northern Kentucky. We have records of the Clays, Breckenridges, Marshalls, Johnsons, and many others who sought his political advice here.

The old hotel has disappeared, but another was built about 1870 on a hill above the road north of the springs. This was once very popular but it has been rapidly decaying perhaps today is entirely gone.

Boone County was organized in 1798 and we have given you the owners up to 1810. Therefore you should be able to find all owners since then at the court house.

EARLY SETTLERS

The county being organized, representatives from Virginia began to invade the country for the purpose of seeking suitable places for settlement. We find in 1804 that William Carpenter, a preacher from Madison, Va., made a journey to our county for such a purpose, and on his return home he advised his friends that Boone county was an ideal place, and on October 8th, 1805, Geo. Rouse, Elizabeth Rouse, Jno. House, Milly House, Frederick Zimmerman, Rose Zimmerman, Ephriam Tanner, Susanna Tanner, John Rouse, Nancy Rouse, and Elizabeth Hoffman, packed their belongings in covered wagons, trudging down the Shenandoah Valley until they came to the Holston river, then up that river until they came to the road that Daniel Boone had made, which they followed to Lexington. From there they followed the ridge route or what we call the Dixie Highway, finally locating where the Hopeful church now stands.

It is difficult for us to conceive the hardships that were endured by

these families in a wilderness of beech forest. Florence had no existence, where Covington is now situated there was one log cabin. Cincinnati had two brick buildings, two frame buildings, and a few log cabins. Burlington had a log court house, a log jail, and a few cabins. These hardy settlers with two utensils, the ax and grub-hoe, felled the trees, erected cabins and prepared the soil for cultivation and were so pleased with the results of their labor and the location, that they encouraged John Beemon, Daniel Beemon, Jacob Rouse, Michael Rouse and Simeon Tanner to locate here in 1806.

The above families were also a religious people and felt the need of a place to worship God. Therefore Geo. Rouse gave an acre of ground on which to build a church of unhewn logs. The roof and door were made of clapboards, the floor with puncheons and the seats were made of saplings, there was an opening left at each end for a window, but these were always open for the want of glass. There was no stove no fireplace, and yet they always met for worship during the winter.

Mr. Ephriam Tanner seems to have been their leader in the religious worship in absence of a regular minister and without a doubt he must have been a man of strong character and far-reaching influence to have held his flock together until 1813, when Rev. William Carpenter (the man who advised the settlement) moved here and became their first regular pastor.

Boys and girls of today, do you realize that the above poineers are your ancestors, and that several of them fought in the Revolutionary War and witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown?

I fear that we are too prone to forget the inconveniences and privations our ancestors endured for our welfare.

READING MATERIAL

Reading material was very scarce in our County from 1762 to 1799. During that period Cincinnati had two papers, one the Freemans Journal and Cincinnati Sentinel. They were published weekly or monthly according to amount of paper they had, and at the close of 1799 they quit and the Western Spy and Hamilton Gazette were issued in their place and these two papers issued a weekly copy until 1814 when the Western Spy assumed the name of Cincinnati Republican.

The press, from 1814 to 1840, began to take sides in politics and three papers advocating Whig candidates were founded, viz: Cincinnati

Gazette, Cincinnati Chronicle and Cincinnati Republican. These three papers had a daily circulation of 2000. The one that advocated the Democratic cause was the Cincinnati Advertiser and Journal with a circulation of 400. There were also two neutral papers published daily called the Daily Times with a circulation of 1500 and the Public Ledger whose patrons numbered 1400. These last two papers had correspondents in Boone County who gave them the general news. Remember, Kenton County had not been organized and our information was through the Cincinnati papers.

The school books that your grandparents studied consisted mainly of the Eclectic School Books which were the primer, spelling book, first, second, third and fourth readers, Ray's arithmetic and Mansfield's grammar. All these books were published in Cincinnati by Truman and Smith on Main St., and used in the Boone County schools in 1835.

We shall now give you some of the news that our Boone County ancestors read in the Western Spy from 1799 to 1814.

Obituary of Mrs. Martha Washington states she died on May 22nd, 1802 after 17 days illness. One-half column of the Spy, containing the details, shrouded in mourning. Andrew Jackson, (Old Hickory) advertises his negro slave, (George) as having eloped from his plantation, fifty dollars reward April 26, 1802.

No Spy published for the last 3 weeks for want of paper, May 27th, 1803. No mail for 3 weeks, there is great dissatisfaction and with good cause.

The first sea vessel passed Petersburg April 27, 1801, called the "Bright St. Clair" 100 tons burthen. This vessel was so well constructed that it could cross the Atlantic Ocean.

A remarkable kind of fish caught in the Licking River, it had no scales. (Writer's opinion, a catfish).

To our country subscribers: The printers of the Spy want some turnips and potatoes for which a reasonable price will be paid.

BELLEVIEW (GRANT)

In reference to a letter I received I shall attempt to answer the question "How did Belleview receive its name and why was the post office called Grant?"

During research study I find the spelling of this word "Belleview" has been spelled as follows: In early times "Belleview," I have maps and papers, 1880, which spell it "Bellevue," and during the past 75 years it has taken its early spelling "Belleview."

Collin's history, 1870, lists the spelling "Belleview" with a population of 61. At this time we had a Belleview in Campbell County with a population of 381 and a Belleview in Christian County with a population of 140, but my historical atlas, 1890, lists Belleview, Christian County, with a population of 3,163 and having a post office.

My morning paper "Cincinnati Enquirer" February 25th, gives a basketball score as "Boone County 62, Bellevue 47."

In seeking information why Belleview was so named I have enriched my knowledge in reference to the early incidents that took place from 1770 to 1815 along the river front from Taylorsport to Rabbit Hash. We were surprised to know who held some of these land grant and who became owners later by purchasing small tracts that were in the former land grants. Also, the names of a great number of surveyors who laid out the boundaries containing these tracts. This information is a great help in understanding why places are so named.

From 1780 to 1793 and later, the Indians committed many depredations by massacring the white settlers and stealing their horses. For protection against these crimes warning bells were erected at convenient distances on the hillsides which gave a good view of the rivers thus detecting any Indians crossing from the Indiana side, thus the alarm was given to settlers.

Therefore we have the word Belle, a beautiful sounding vessel shaped like a pear, and the word View, to behold, to see, to inspect, a mental survey—Belleview.

There being other towns in the state pronounced the same or spelled the same Uncle Sam established the post office as Grant on July 15, 1869, with Jessee Hewitt as postmaster. So named in honor of J. Grant who owned much land where Belleview is now located.

You should know Tanner's Station was protected by guards after 1791 and these guards used different signals, but the bell was the most sounding instrument used in giving warning to the settlers along this river frontage.